

SHINING TIME STATION

EPISODE #3
"AND THE BAND PLAYED OFF"

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Second draft

From characters
and series storyline
created by Britt Allcroft and
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7

(FADE IN:)

(THE INFO. DESK. UP POPS MR. C. HE TAKES OUT HIS BATHPLUG AND CHECKS IT AGAINST THE TIME ON THE BIG CLOCK. THE PHONE ON THE TICKET BOOTH COUNTER RINGS. MR. C. REALIZES HE IS ALONE AND HAS TO ANSWER IT. HE POPS OVER TO THE TICKET BOOTH. WITH BOTH HANDS HE TAKES THE RECEIVER AND FLIPS IT OFF THE CRADLE.)

V.O.

Hello... Hello... is

anyone there?

(MR. C. WALKS AROUND TO WHERE IT LANDS.)

MR. C.

Yes, someone is here. The phones at Shining Time Station don't go around answering themselves.

V.O.

I want to speak with Stacy Jones. Is she there?

MR. C.

You could if she were, but she's not and that's that. Perhaps you'd like to leave a message with me.

} good

V.O.

This is the Main Office of
the Indian Valley Railroad
with a very important
message.

(MR. C. PERKS UP.)

MR. C.

Yes sir, what may I do for
you?

V.O.

A new train will be
stopping at your station
today. It's the local
train from Leaky Park.

MR. C.

A new train! That is
important news.

(STACY ENTERS. SHE COMES OVER.)

MR. C. (CONT'D)

...it's the Main Office.

(SHE TAKES THE PHONE.)

STACY

Hello. Stacy Jones
speaking. ...A new train
is going to stop here
today!!

(SHE IS SUDDENLY FILLED WITH
EXCITEMENT.)

STACY

I knew it. I knew our
work would bring the
station back to life...
This is what we've been
working for! All our hard
work is paying off.

(SHE PUTS DOWN THE PHONE IN ORDER
TO EXECUTE A GLEEFUL SPIN. MATT
AND TANYA ENTER. SHE RUSHES TO
THEM.)

STACY

A new train is going to
stop here today.

(IN THE B.G. AUDIO WE CAN MAKE
OUT: HELLO, ARE YOU THERE?)

(KIDS AD LIB: GOOD, GREAT, ETC.
HARRY COMES OUT OF HIS WORKSHOP.)

(STACY RUSHES OVER.)

STACY (CONT'D)

...Harry, it's happened.

Another train is stopping
at our station. And there
will probably be more
trains after this one.

HARRY

Well, it's about time.
When does it stop here?

STACY

(BEFUDDLED) When?...
when? Oh my gosh! I
forgot to ask.

(SHE SUDDENLY REALIZES SHE'S LEFT
THE PHONE. SHE RUSHES TO IT.)

STACY (CONT'D)

Hello...yes, I'm here.

...Yes, You can trust me
to get the schedule right.
I won't make mistakes ...
When is the new train
coming?

(SHE BEGINS REPEATING SO AS TO
MEMORIZE.)

STACY (CONT'D)

...the 1:57 train to Leaky
Park, Spotsville and
Doodlehaven...

(MR. C. IS BELOW COUNTER TOP NOW.
HE WAVES BIG PENCIL AT HER.)

MR. C.

Don't you want to write
this down?

(SHE WAVES FOR HIM TO BE QUIET,
SHE CAN'T HEAR. MR. C. EXITS.)

STACY

Shhhhh... That'll switch
to the local track...
yes...and the local train
to Waddley and Chubby
Corners changes at the
2:04 on the express
line... yes, yes...
changes at Buttertown,
changes back at Turley
Junction... and straight
onto Lucy's Leap. Then
does it stop at Shining
Time Station? ...No? ...
Oh.

(SHE IS GETTING CONFUSED.)

STACY (CONT'D)

...skips Lucy's Leap and
stops at Mount Careful at
2:12 then it arrives at
Shining Time Station Yes,
yes... I think I have it.
This is so exciting.
Thank you.

(SHE HANGS UP. STILL REPEATING TO
HERSELF. THEN SEES TANYA, MATT
AND HARRY. SHE CAN'T CONTAIN HER
EXCITEMENT AND GIVES ANOTHER JUMP
IN THE AIR.)

STACY

I'm so happy!

HARRY

You memorized all of that,
did you?

STACY

It's going to be here in
less than an hour. Oh, we
have so much to do.

(SHE DOES QUICK PACING, TRYING TO
ORGANIZE HER THOUGHTS.)

HARRY

Hold your coupling rods.
There's time.

STACY

I can't relax. I have to
write all this on the new
schedule board... Where is
the schedule board?

(SHE GOES TO "SORRY, WRONG BOX": A
CRATE ON THE FLOOR. SHE OPENS THE
CRATE AND HEARS A FEW BARS OF:
"TAKE THE A TRAIN.")

STACY

Oh, sorry, wrong box.

(STACY HAS AN IDEA. SHE GOES TO
THE MURAL WHERE MATT AND TANYA ARE
TALKING TO MR. C.)

STACY

That's what we need, a
band! A band to greet the
new train. Make the
pas^sengers feel really
welcome...

MR. C.

No, what you need is to
post the new schedule so
the passengers can see the
changes...

STACY

Oh, my goodness! I
totally forgot about the
regular train... What did
he say? 20 minutes
earlier? Or did he say 20
minutes later? Oh no. I
forgot.

MR. C.

Calm down. Get a grip on
yourself. You're going to
wind up making mistakes.
You don't want to do that.

STACY

No, no. We can't have any
mistakes. Not on the
Indian Valley Railroad.

(STACY EXITS.)

MR. C.

Mistakes happen.
Especially when you're
impatient.

TANYA

Are you going to tell us a
story?

MR. C.

Not if you're impatient?

MATT

...I'm not impatient.

MR. C.

Then you must wait.

(PAUSE) Okay, you've
waited long enough. So
come with me now to the
Island of Sodor.

(BLOWS WHISTLE: STEAM EFFECTS AND
INTO:)

(THOMAS #5.)

(MATT AND TANYA JOIN STACY AT
INFORMATION DESK. STACY IS BUSY
WRITING.)

(ENTER A PASSENGER NAMED SPIKE.)

SPIKE

Excuse me, what time is
your regular train to Mount
Careful?

STACY
(fishing)

How do you do?
Our regular train? Let's
see, that would leave...
20 minutes before the
hour. Yes, our regular
train leaves 20 minutes
before the hour.

(SPIKE CHECKS HIS WATCH.)

SPIKE

Well, I don't have much
time. Can I get a one-way
ticket to Mount Careful?

STACY

Certainly...if you'd just
step over to the ticket
booth.

(SHE GOES AROUND BEHIND THE TICKET
BOOTH AND SELLS HIM A TICKET.)

STACY (CONT'D)

Here you are.

(HE PAYS HER.)

SPIKE

Thank you. I better hurry.

(HE EXITS.)

STACY

Now, let me think... what

else do I have to do?...

(OUT FROM THE WORKSHOP COMES HARRY
CARRYING THE SCHEDULE BOARD.)

HARRY

...Well, one thing we have
to do is put this back up...

STACY

Oh, there it is! Where did
you find it?

HARRY

Oh, it was back there under
a whole pile of things. I
had to fix the hooks.

(HE HANGS IT UP ON THE WALL. THEY
BOTH STAND BACK AND ADMIRE IT.)

STACY

It's a beauty, isn't it?

HARRY

It'll look a lot better
when it has some train
information on it.

STACY

Exactly! I'll fill that
right in.

(HARRY RETURNS TO HIS WORKSHOP.
STACY GETS SOME CHALK.)

STACY (CONT'D)

...Now let's see, how did
that go? Doddlehaven...
Chubby Corners... or was it
Chubbyhaven and Doodle
Corners?... the express to
Waddley... no, Buttertown...

(SHE STARTS, BECOMES CONFUSED
TANYA AND MATT COME OVER.)

MATT

Are you okay, Aunt Stacy?

STACY

...Yes...

TANYA

Can we help?

STACY

...No...yes... I don't know.

(MR. C. APPEARS ON THE DESK TOP.)

MR. C.

Maybe this'll help.

(HE OFFERS HER A PIECE OF PAPER.
SHE TAKES THE TINY PAPER AND
SQUINTS TO READ IT.)

MR. C. (CONT'D)

It's the new schedule with
all of the changes. I copied
it down when you were on
the phone.

STACY

Oh thanks, you're a real
pal... It's kind of hard to
read. The writing is a
little small.

(STACY REACHES UNDER THE DESK AND
TAKES OUT A MAGNIFYING GLASS.)

STACY

...Goodness, I need to do
my nails... Did you ever
look at your hands with a
magnifying glass?

TANYA & MATT

No.

STACY

Have a look...

(STACY TAKES TANYA'S HAND AND
HOLDS THE GLASS TO IT. MATT LEANS
IN.)

(EXTREME CLOSE-UP. TANYA'S HAND.)

STACY (CONT'D)

I bet you didn't know you
had all those lines. And
designs.

TANYA

Look at that, wow.

(CUT TO 3 SHOT.)

STACY

Let's look at Matt's nose.

(EXTREME CLOSE-UP OF MATT'S NOSE.)

TANYA

It's full of little holes.

STACY

Those are skin pores. That's
how the skin breathes.

(CUT BACK TO 3 SHOT.)

STACY (CONT'D)

There is so much we can't
see with our own eyes...
But not train schedules.
I better put the new one up.
Why don't you both pick out
a song on the jukebox?

(STACY TO SCHEDULE BOARD. KIDS TO
JUKEBOX. THEY PUT IN COIN.)

(INT. JUKEBOX. THE COIN ROLLS
DOWN. CLANGING AND BANGING.)

GRACE

Some of our fans have
returned.

TITO

It's a 1987 in fine
condition. I already have
one in my collection.

REX

What do the youngsters want
to hear, Tex?

TEX

Hope it's something we know,
Rex.

DIDI

They picked C-7. Like,
what is C-7?

GRACE

Don't you know C-7? How
did you get in this band?

TITO

C-7 is pure railroad, pure
railroad. 1...2...3...hit it.

(INTO SHE'LL BE COMING 'ROUND THE
MOUNTAIN. INTERCUT WITH RAILROAD
FOOTAGE. 1:30.)

(DIDI QUICKLY GETS IT AND JOINS
IN.)

(STACY IS FINISHED WITH SCHEDULE
BOARD AND STANDS BACK TO ADMIRE
HER WORK.)

STACY

There...what do you think?

MATT

Looks good.

TANYA

Now everyone can see it.

STACY

Now the folks will know
when the trains are leaving
and when they're going.

Let's go get Harry so he
can see it.

(THEY GO TOWARDS WORKSHOP. ENTER
SPIKE, PURPOSEFULLY. HE GOES TO
SCHEDULE BOARD.)

SPIKE

What's going on here?

(SCHEMER ENTERS.)

SCHEMER

Are you having some
difficulty?

SPIKE

I'll say, they changed the
schedule on me!

(STACY COMES OUT OF HARRY'S
WORKSHOP TO SEE WHAT THE TROUBLE
IS.)

STACY

Is there a problem?

SPIKE

...Yes...

SCHEMER

I'll say there's a problem!

You told this man the wrong
information! (TO SPIKE)

Didn't she? (BEFORE SPIKE
CAN ANSWER) Of course she
did. And you're going to
miss your appointment, aren't
you? Of course you are. (TO
STACY) Should people like you
be given responsibility? Of
course they shouldn't!

STACY

Yes, I gave the wrong infor-
mation, but see, the new
train will get you there...

SCHEMER

I wouldn't be surprised if
this good man reported you
to the railroad and they
decided to put someone else
in charge... Someone
wonderful and caring...
Someone like me.

STACY

Listen. The new express
train will...

SCHEMER

Tut tut tut. No more
excuses...

(TO SPIKE)

Come, my good fellow, from
this harbor of confusion
and I will lead you to a
pay phone where you can
make that call.

(SCHEMER LEADS SPIKE OUT.)

STACY

(CALLING AFTER THEM)

Wait... The new express
train will get you there
faster than before... If
you'd just take some time
to read this...you'd...see...
that...

(HARRY WATCHES FROM HIS DOORWAY.)

HARRY

Matt...Tanya...come on in
here.

TANYA

What is it, Grandpa?

HARRY

Let's plan a little surprise
for Stacy.

MATT

She's having a bad day.

HARRY

I'd say she is.
No one likes to get
chewed out.

(THEY BOTH NOD KNOWINGLY.)

HARRY

This station means a lot to
her and when good news came
along, she got a little
carried away and forgot her
responsibilities. We all
make mistakes. So what do
you say we do something to
cheer her up. Any ideas?

TANYA

She said she wanted a band
to meet the new train.

HARRY

That's a swell idea.

(HE STARTS TO ROOT AROUND IN HIS
SCRAP BOOK.)

HARRY (CONT'D)

Let's see what we can come
up with...this looks
promising...

MATT

No, let's use this!

(MAKING INSTRUMENTS. MATT MAKES AN INSTRUMENT OUT OF A CUP, WITH NUTS & BOLTS INSIDE AND RUBBER BANDS ON TOP. TANYA MAKES INSTRUMENT OUT OF TIN FOIL TRAY.)

(KIDS APPROACH MR. C. WITH THEIR INSTRUMENTS.)

TANYA

Mr. Conductor! Look what
we've made. We're going to
be a band.

MR. C.

Instruments! Splendid!
I'm quite an old hand at
musical instruments myself,
you know.

(NOTICES MATT LOOKING CRITICALLY
AT HIS INSTRUMENT.)

MATT

I don't know if they sound
as good as instruments.

MR. C.

It's all in how you play
it. All you need is a
little rhythm! Why, with
just a pair of drumsticks
you make music on the
sidewalk, on a building,
on a railing...

MATT

On a sidewalk?

TANYA

On a building?

MR. C.

Absolutely! I'll show you!

(ANYTHING DOOR: "EAR RESPONSIBILITY.")

MATT

That was neat. All you
need is a little rhythm.

(MR. C. TAPS OUT A FEW BARS.)

MR. C.

That's right.

(CUT TO STACY BEHIND THE TICKET
COUNTER.)

STACY

That passenger who missed
his train is going to
complain to the railroad.

MR. C.

People get impatient. It
happens all of the time.
It happens to you. It
happens to everybody. It
even happens to Thomas...

(HE IS GETTING NO RESPONSE FROM
STACY. HE TURNS TO THE KIDS.)

MR. C.

"So what happened to
Thomas?" Very well, I shall
tell you. "Oh, please do..."
So come with me now...

(INTO THOMAS EPISODE #6. THOMAS
AND THE TRUCKS.)

(BACK. STACY'S WARM SMILE HAS
RETURNED.)

STACY

Thanks for the story.

Sometimes we get pushed
down a steep hill and all
we can do is hope for the
best.

(HARRY PAUSES OUTSIDE THE WORKSHOP
DOOR. HE LOOKS ACROSS AT THE
SCHEDULE BOARD. MR. C. QUICKLY
VANISHES IN A CLOUD OF MAGIC DUST.)

HARRY

...Stacy, did you do that
entire schedule from memory?

STACY

Mr. Conductor helped me out.

HARRY

Mr. Conductor?

MATT

He's the little guy who
lives in the wall.

(HARRY ROLLING HIS EYES.)

HARRY

Oh yes,
the little guy who lives
in the wall. I forgot.

(SPIKE RE-ENTERS AND HAS ANOTHER
LOOK AT THE SCHEDULE.)

SPIKE

Wait, is this right?

(THE KIDS NOD YES. STACY COMES
OVER.)

SPIKE

...you mean I can catch
the train at 20 after and I
can get to Mount Careful
before the other train
would have gotten me there?

STACY

Yes. It's the new train
that is stopping here today.

SPIKE

Why, that's wonderful. I
won't be late at all. Say,
what are you up to with
those instruments?

TANYA

We're going to meet the new
train.

MATT

We're going to play for it.

SPIKE

Would you mind if I joined
you?

(THEY SHRUG, SURE.)

MATT

If you'd really like to
play with us, you can.

SPIKE

Would I like too? I'd
love to. I'll be right
back...

(HE DASHES ONTO THE PLATFORM AND
DASHES BACK. HE IS A ONE-MAN
BAND.)

SPIKE

Taa Daa.

(DOES A LITTLE DEMO)

There's a one-man band
convention in Mount Careful
and I was afraid I was
going to miss it. And I'm the
only participant.

good line
if I do sing so
myself

(TO STACY)

I'm sorry if I got upset
before. I should've taken
the time to read the
schedule.

(HARRY BY THE EXIT.)

HARRY

The new train
is pulling in.

(SPIKE DRUMS UP A RACKET AND THE
KIDS JOIN IN. THEY MARCH TWICE
AROUND THE INFO. DESK AND OUT ONTO
THE PLATFORM.)

(CUT TO INT. JUKEBOX.)

DIDI

What, like, was that?!

TITO

That was the sound of a
one-man band!

GRACE

How come five of us can't
make half that racket?

REX

Tex, I been thinking about
becoming a one-man band.

TEX

Rex, considering how long
it's taken the two of us to
learn this here one guitar...
forget it.

(CUT TO HARRY BY EXIT. HE BENDS
OVER AND PICKS UP A TINY PIECE OF
PAPER. REAL TINY. HE TRIES TO
READ IT. HAS TO SQUINT. CAN'T
MAKE IT OUT.)

HARRY

...A little guy who lives

in the wall?

(SHAKES HIS HEAD IN DISBELIEF. HE
EXITS.)

(TRAIN SHADOW PULLS INTO STATION
AMID MUSIC AND CHEERS.)

(AND CREDITS. FADE OUT.)